

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 with the following amended paragraph:**

Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will appear on reading the following description of embodiments of the invention, given by way of example and made with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic graph showing how spectrum distribution is modified by the Raman effect in a very broad band transmission system; and

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic graph showing the appearance of gain for amplification in a very broad band transmission system.

Figure 3 is a block diagram of a very broad band wavelength division multiplexed transmission system according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figures 3b-3f show block diagrams of several embodiments of the very broad band wavelength division multiplexed transmission system of the present invention.